

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/AFN: WSWEISLOGEL

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R 061420Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132217

FOLL REPEAT MOSCOW 7477 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO CAIRO, DAMASCUS,  
LONDON, PARIS, TEL AVIV, TUNIS AND DIA WASHDC 30 MAY 75:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7477

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY

SUBJECT: ARMS DEAL WITH LIBYA

1. DESPITE THE AL AHAM STORY AND SADAT'S RECENT STATEMENT  
ALLEGING A SOVIET-LIBYAN SUPER-AGREEMENT ON ARMS, EGYPTIAN  
EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE ARE OPENLY SKEPTICAL THAT SUCH A  
MAMMOTH DEAL WAS REALLY STRUCK.

2. ONE EGYPTIAN, AMONG THE BEST INFORMED IN HIS EMBASSY ON  
MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, TOLD THE ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR  
MAY 26 (BEFORE SADAT'S STATEMENT) THAT THE SOVIET-LIBYAN  
AGREEMENT TOTALED 700 MILLION DOLLARS. ACCORDING TO THE  
EGYPTIAN THE SOVIETS AGREED TO SUPPLY TANKS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
WEAPONRY.

3. TWO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS IN SEPARATE CONVER-  
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SATIONS WITH US MAY 29 SAID THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND  
TO SUPPLY LIBYA WITH ARMS TOTALING 12 BILLION DOLLARS.  
ONE OFFICER, WHO SPECIALIZES IN SOVIET-MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS,  
SAID SADAT'S CLAIM APPEARED "UNREALISTIC" AND ADDED  
THAT HE BELIEVES THE FIGURE IS MUCH LOWER. HE ALSO CLAIMED

THE LIBYANS DID NOT AGREE TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH BASES IN LIBYA ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THEY MAY WELL HAVE AGREED TO ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO USE SOME LIBYAN FACILITIES.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOT REACTED TO SADAT'S STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH PRAVDA'S ATTACK ON THE ALAHRAM ARTICLE (MAY 27) WAS THE STRONGEST WE HAVE SEEN AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN PRESS SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR. PRIVATELY THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN PLAYING DOWN THE IDEA OF A SUPER DEAL. THE ITALIANS TOLD THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WHEN THE SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS RELATIONSHIP AROSE DURING ITALIAN MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI'S TALKS WITH SYTENKO, SYTENKO SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD SOLD THE LIBYANS ONLY "DEFENSIVE WEAPONS" (A STATEMENT NOT BORNE OUT BY THE REPORTED DELIVERY OF MIG 23 AIRCRAFT AND TANKS TO LIBYA OVER THE LAST YEAR).  
STOESSEL UNQUOTE

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